FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 MAY 1987

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — Israeli warplanes attacked "terrorist" targets southeast of Sidon 6 May, scoring accurate hits on command posts used as bases for operations against Israel, Jerusalem radio announced. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed that 8 people were killed and over 28 were injured, adding that the PLO said Fatah, DFLP, and PFLP targets were among 15 buildings destroyed in the raid. Beirut radio cited reports that over 40 missiles were fired at the attacking aircraft, which used dozens of bombs and rockets.

Karami's Resignation — Syrian leaders were "surprised" by Rashid Karami's decision to resign but he is sticking to this decision because he has reached a "dead end," Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an stated in remarks reported by Beirut radio after meeting with Karami. Support for Karami was expressed by Ministers 'Abdallah al-Rasi and Nabih Birri, the radio reported, noting that Birri said he hopes the resignation will compel President Amin al-Jumayyil to restart reconciliation talks under Syrian auspices.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is interested in meeting with Jordan's King Husayn to ascertain his position on an international peace conference and negotiations with Israel, *Yedi'ot Aharonot* reported. On the U.S. position, the director general of Shamir's office told Jerusalem radio that clarifications received from the United States have not dispelled concern that the conference will discuss substantive issues rather than being merely an opening for direct talks, that the USSR will be allowed to attend without having met Israel's conditions, and that the PLO will also be allowed to participate. He asked: "Why should we let the PLO in, if we plan to leave the conference if it attends?"

As for the Alignment position on the PLO's attendance, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stressed there can be no separate representation for the PLO, but he said PLO participation would be "possible" through the acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, the renouncement of terrorism, and as part of a Jordanian-Palestinian "confederation," according to the radio. There is a difference between inviting the PLO and the latter accepting the invitation, he added. The Herut Movement criticized Peres' remarks as tantamount to giving legitimization to the PLO, the radio noted.

Jordan

Egyptian Visitors — King Husayn received Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and other members of an Egyptian delegation which arrived in Jordan 5 May to participate in meetings of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, Amman radio reported. They discussed political coordination on moves to achieve a comprehensive and just political settlement in the Middle East, and viewpoints were "identical" on the international conference issue. The radio also reported on the start of talks between Jordanian officials and Sidqi's delegation, which includes 10 Egyptian cabinet ministers.

Husayn Interview — The Jordan Times published excerpts of King Husayn's *Boston Globe* interview in which he said he has never met privately with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres nor agreed to direct negotiations. The king attributed reports of a Jordan-Israel agreement to the internal conflict in Israel between the "dangerous, short-sighted element" and the "reasonable element."

PLO

During a visit to Qatar, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat spoke of a "75 percent" chance of convening an international conference to solve the Palestine question and he stated the Arab delegation will include representatives from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and the PLO, WAKH reported. 'Arafat also welcomed the talks in Damascus between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PFLP leader George Habash, noting that the PLO is willing to rectify its relations with Syria with the assistance of friends of the two sides.

A Damascus radio report on the Al-Asad-Habash meeting said they discussed Palestinian developments, adding that the Syrian leader expressed support for efforts to achieve Palestinian unity on a platform that is "free of maneuvering and compromise." According to PFLP sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo, Al-Asad told Habash that the Algiers PNC was a positive step which needs to be completed to include all other Palestinian organizations.

Regarding relations with Libya, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio confirmed that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has authorized the reopening of the PLO office in Tripoli.

Libya-USSR

Foreign Liaison Secretary Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi was received in the Kremlin by Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, TASS reported. Discussion on the long-term program to develop bilateral cooperation took place in a "businesslike and constructive atmosphere."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft flew over 800 km to attack the Sasan oil field in the southern Gulf 6 May, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The attack turned the Iranian installations into "burning rubble" with flames and smoke billowing in the air.

The Iraqi raid followed an Iranian gunboat attack on a Panamanian tanker loaded with Kuwaiti oil off the UAE coast the previous day, as reported by KUNA, which noted that one crew member was wounded. A Kuwaiti source told INA that such attacks are "illegitimate and unjustifiable" and affirmed Kuwait's right to transport oil through the Gulf's international passages.

In the northern Gulf, Iraqi naval units repelled Iranian gunboats trying to approach an Iraqi offshore jetty, according to an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses. An Iranian military statement carried by IRNA announced that an Iraqi boat suffered "major damage" in the confrontation and that two frigates at the jetty were damaged by Iranian artillery fire.

A Tehran radio commentary lambasted Moscow for its "deceitful diplomacy." Iraq's "military bankruptcy" has caused the Soviets to retreat from their "position of hypocrisy" and to reveal that their "overtly announced impartiality" is a sham, the commentary charged, concluding that the actions of the "world's powers" are further evidence that the Iraqi regime is at its most vulnerable.

Iran

An attempt to hijack a Boeing-707 en route from Tehran to Shiraz was foiled by the plane's security staff and the would-be hijacker was arrested, IRNA reported. While the agency noted that the lone hijacker was believed to be suffering from a "mental disorder," an announcement from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps carried by Tehran radio described those detained as "world arrogance agents" and "lackeys of Zionism."

Pakistan

According to "official sources" cited by *Xinhua*, "agents" of the DRA Government were arrested in the border town of Landi Kotal as they were unloading weapons and explosives to be used in "subversive activities."

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Further Reportage on Visit of India's Tiwari

Airport Departure Detailed

LD051314 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Kabul, 5 May *(Bakhtar)* — His Excellency Narain Dutt Tiwari, Indian minister of foriegn affairs, who had come to Kabul on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and the DRA Minister of foreign affairs, had today left for home.

Present at Kabul International Airport to see off the Indian foreign affairs minister and his entourage were: Foreign Affairs Minister Comrade 'Abdol Wakil; Abdorrahim Hatef, president of the NFF Central Council and chairman of the DRA Supreme Council of National Reconciliation; assistant to the minister of foreign affairs; the Afghan ambassador and extraordinary representative to New Delhi; the head of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry; and the Indian ambassador and extraordinary representative to Kabul and members of that embassy.

Holds News Conference

LD060643 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 5, *Bakhtar* — Indo-Afghan ties go back to antiquity. Peoples of India and Afghanistan have had the closest of ties of friendship and traditional relations which are deep-rooted in cultural, trade and travel over the centuries. This was stated by N. D. Tiwari external affairs' minister of India in a press conference held here today.

The relations between the present-day Afghanistan and India fully reflect the historical friendship between the two countries.

We have very happy memories of Foreign Minister Wakil's visit to India in February 1987. During his visit to India at that time we had an extensive exchange of views on both bilateral matters and issues of mutual interest. I was particularly impressed by his range of vision and depth and perception. Deep dialogue initiated by Mr. Wakil during his visit to India has been continued during my current visit to Afghanistan, the Indian minister for external affairs said.

During my visit to the DRA, I have been greatly impressed by the sincerity of the leadership in Afghanistan in attempting to achieve a genuine process of national reconciliation. As you are aware, we have regarded the move for national reconciliation as a positive development. We hope that it will succeed and contribute to an effective and peaceful solution of the Afghan issue. I have also been deeply attached by the sentiments of friendship and love which both the Afghan leadership and the Afghan people have for the people of India.

Replying to a question, N. D. Tiwari said during my visit to Afghanistan, I had the privilege of being a co-chairman along with H. E. Mr. Wakil, of the 8th session of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission. We had intensive discussions on our existing bilateral cooperation and of the manner in which we could further intensify it.

We were, I think, both generally satisfied with the progress achieved in regard to the decisions taken at the seventh session of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission. Both of us, however, felt that more can be done to further extend this cooperation. In this context, I think, the 8th session of the Joint Commission has been an important milestone in the development of bilateral cooperation programmes between our two countries. During my visit here, I had the good fortune of presenting equipment for the industrial estate project and of laying the foundation stone of the Indira Gandhi institute of child health expansion project. During the joint commission meeting, we also took important decisions to further develop the Indira Gandhi institute of child health, the industrial project, the establishment of an English language centre in Kabul and ways and means of further intensifying cooperation between our two countries in the fields of cultural, agriculture and technical assistance.

The Indo-Afghan Friendship Society under the chairmanship of the senior Indian parliamentarian, Mr. G.L. Dogra and the Afghan-India Friendship Association under the chairmanship of distinguished scholar H.E. Mr. Abdorrahim Hatef are functioning admirably well. The two societies by organizing various functions contribute towards bringing the people of the two countries together. There is much scope for expansion of their activities which could be channeled in a way to generate more awareness about each other's customs and traditions and promote the friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries.

Pakistan's quest for sophisticated weapons like the AWACS is an another matter of much concern to us. The Pakistani leadership has tended to make out that such acquisition of weapons is intended to meet any contingency of a threat to its security from Afghanistan. However, the types of weapons system being acquired by Pakistan are clearly designed for use [words indistinct] India. We do not believe that Pakistan intends to use these weapons against the Soviet Union or to any hypothetical threat from Afghanistan. We are convinced that these weapons are being obtained for use against India as indeed has been our experience from history.

It is an unfortunate fact that N.D. Tiwari said, Pakistan has been involved in extremists activities directed against India. We have, on several occasions, raised this issue with the Government of Pakistan at various levels. The Government of Pakistan has made known to us that it will not in future encourage any such activities. We do hope that they would live up to this commitment.

India has always stood for world peace and nuclear disarmament. The rising stockpiles of nuclear weapons threatens the very survival of mankind's existence. In the recent years, India has taken initiatives of great importance in this regard. The six nation initiative and the Delhi declaration are the shining testimony to this effect. These initiatives have been universally acclaimed and we have no doubt that these could form the basis of a universal disarmament, leading to lessening to tensions and creating an atmosphere of peace, stability and progress.

We regard the moves for national reconciliation as a positive development. We do hope that they will lead to a peaceful solution of the Afghan issue.

From all accounts, it would appear that Pakistan has not shown the degree of flexibility that was expected of it at the proximity talks. We do hope that at the next round of these talks, it would show somewhat greater flexibility with a view to enabling the both sides to arrive at an agreement on the timeframe for the troops withdraw [words indistinct].

We have viewed with greater concern efforts by Pakistan to secure sophisticated weapon systems like AWACS either by outright purchase or on lease with the gravest concern. Our objection to acquisition of such sophisticated weapon systems is that it inevitably gives rise to the diversion of scarce resources from development to defence in the sub-continent.

Efforts to acquire AWACS systems are particularly objectionable as it has a force multiplier effect and would inevitably lead to an arms race in the sub-continent. The acquisition of AWACS particularly if they are obtained on a [words indistinct] lease is objectionable as it would tend to bring the super power presence in the sub-continent.

Ganges River Management Discussed With India

BK040234 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Committee of Experts [JCE] have begun their meeting in Dhaka. Indian water resources secretary, Naresh Chandra, is leading his country's delegation at the talks. Bangladesh is being led by irrigation, water resources and flood control secretary, Mohammad Ali.

The Joint Committee of Experts was constituted as per provisions of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries in November 1985. It was asked to work out a scheme for augmenting the Ganges flow and identify alternatives to sharing the common river water resources. The current meeting will be followed by a ministerial level meeting. It will review the JCE activities.

Meeting Ends 4 May

BK041416 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The eighth meeting of Bangladesh-India Joint Committee of Experts [JCE] has ended in Dhaka. During the 2-day discussions, the JCE took stock of the work it has done so far since its inception in November 1985. The meeting also held detailed discussions on the [words indistinct] for long-term (?schemes) for augmentation of Ganges flow at Farakka and study the possible alternatives for sharing the common river water resources.

The irrigation and water resources secretary, Mr Mohammad Ali, led the Bangladesh side of the talks, while the Indian delegation was headed by water resources secretary, Mr Naresh Chandra. The work done by the JCE will come for review in the ministerial-level meeting between the two countries to be held in New Delhi on Sunday.

A joint statement issued after the talks today said the discussions were held in a state of cordiality and understanding. The leader of the Indian delegation told newsmen that the talks have been fruitful. The leader of Bangladesh delegation shared his views.

President Ershad Approves Industrial Ordinance

BK051417 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] President Ershad has approved the Bangladesh industrial enterprises nationalization amendment ordinance 1987. He gave the approval at a high-level meeting on rapid industrialization held at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka today. The amendement to Bangladesh industrial enterprises nationalization order 1972 was necessitated to implement the industrial policy of 1986 which envisaged gradual selling of 49 percent of shares of the nationalized industrial units among the members of the project and handing over of the remaining 51 percent share to their respective corporations.

Industrial policy announced by the present government has set provisions for the participation of workers and employees in the management of industrial units, thereby ensuring a modern management system. The meeting also considered proposals for extending more facilities and providing infrastructural support for accelerating the process of rapid industrialization in the country.

Dhaka Medical College Closed Indefinitely

BK040157 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Sir Salimullah Medical College in Dhaka has been declared closed indefinitely from yesterday. According to a notification issued by the college authorities in Dhaka yesterday, the election for the students welfare committee scheduled to be held today has also been put off. Resident students have been asked to vacate their hostels immediately. The step has been taken in view of the situation arising from election activities.

Parliament Debates AWACS Supply to Pakistan
BK051558 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today members from both sides expressed serious concern over U.S. supply of AWACS to Pakistan. They said these weapons, coupled with Pakistan's capability of producing a nuclear bomb, have created a dangerous situation in the subcontinent. The house was having a special discussion on India-U.S. relations.

Initiating the debate, Mr Saifuddin Chowdhury, CPI-M, demanded that the government should take a firm stand against the U.S. government's policy to subvert India's policy of peace and nonalignment.

During the discussion, members said that attempts to destabilize the country have been continous and the American government has not learned any lesson by its defeats in countries like Vietnam. Members also expressed fears about the militarization of the Indian Ocean. A strong plea was made that India should review its nuclear options to counter the threat posed by Pakistan's reported acquisition of nuclear capability.

The debate will continue.

Gandhi Says Pakistan Proceeding With Nuclear Program
BK060320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said there is clear evidence that Pakistan is going ahead full steam with its nuclear weapons program. In an interview published in the American magazine *Forbes* he said Washington has the power to restrain Islamabad. He said the American perception on Pakistan's strategic usefulness seems to prevail over a larger concern for nonproliferation. Asked if India was producing any nuclear weapons he said after the 1974 peaceful experiment India has not done any work further in that direction. Mr Gandhi also said that he is convinced that the proposed sale of AWACS radar planes to Pakistan would affect India.

Gandhi Rules Out Privatization of Public Sector
BK041347 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The prime minister declared in the Lok Sabha today that the thrust of the overall economic policy of the government is on achieving a self-reliant economy, removing poverty and disparities, and safeguarding independence. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was replying to the discussion on the finance bill which the house later passed. He said highest priority has been given to strengthening agriculture, rural development, and poverty alleviation programs.

Referring to the public sector, the prime minister categorically stated that there is no question of its privatization. The public sector, he said, would continue to retain the commanding heights of the economy.

On the state of the economy, Mr Gandhi said it is in good shape. The wholesale price index came down by a 0.3 percent in March this year. The consumer price index also came down in January and February. The inflation rate was 8.4 percent in February compared to 9.3 percent in December last. Despite poor rainfall the food grain production is going to be better than last year. Industrial growth has been around 7 percent and the trade deficit has come down substantially.

11 More 'Breakaway' Akali Legislators Disqualified
BK051554 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] The speaker of the Punjab assembly, Mr Surjit Singh Minhas, has disqualified 11 more members of the breakaway group of the Akali Dal from the house. Mr Minhas declared the seats vacant after deciding that they had incurred disqualification under the antidefection law. They had defied the party whip issued on the 2d of June last year during the election of the speaker and the deputy speaker. With this, 22 members of the breakaway group have now been removed from membership of the assembly. The speaker had disqualified 11 of them, including the former chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, immediately after the Punjab and Haryana high court upheld the atidefection law last Friday.

All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent reports with disqualification of these legislators, effective strength of the 117-member assembly has been reduced to 91. The latest party position is: Akali Dal, 46; Congress-I, 31; Bharatiya Janata Party, 5; Janata and Communist Party of India, 1 each; and independents, 4. Three legislators, who were expelled from the Akali Dal legislature party, have been declared unattached by the speaker.

Border Force Increase Set Over 5-Year Period
BK051027 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] The center has sanctioned 54 additional battalions of BSF [Border Security Forces] to be deployed over 5 years for increased vigilance on borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The Rajya Sabha was informed today that there is no report of any large-scale infiltration. Over 14,300 infiltrators were nabbed by the BSF on West Bengal and Tripura borders, out of which about 14,000 were pushed back and the rest handed over to the police for necessary action under the law in the 3 month period ending March last. During the same period, over 700 infiltrators were apprehended on Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat borders. Half of them were pushed back and the rest taken into police custody.

The Rajya Sabha was also told that vigilance is being maintained to check Burmese insurgency onthe India-Burma border. The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, said during question hour that special operations were conducted in the last week of March to flush out some Burmese intruders from

southern Mizoram. He said the matter has been taken up by the External Affairs Ministry to the Burmese Government.

Editorial Decries Colombo's Military Action

BK030816 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 27 Apr 87 p 9

[Editorial: "Colombo's Over-Reaction"]

[Text] In calling off its peace efforts, Colombo has over-reacted to Tamil belligerance. Not that the acts of violence are to be condoned or the Government should be lenient to the militants. It is unwise of the Government to go all out for a military solution to the present crisis. The need of the hour is to end the present phase of violence for which a truce is essential. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Mr K. Premadasa might be pandering to Sinhala sentiments when he told Sri Lankan Parliament that "when the lives of our own people are in danger, we are not prepared to go in for a political solution." In times of crisis, leaders are tempted to make extreme protestations and Mr Premadasa perhaps is not an exception. It is for the benefit of the majority community that in his speech he attacked the militants and criticised India. Such tactics are understandable, but as Prime Minister he has a more responsible role to play. He is only deceiving himself when he says that Sri Lanka is not fighting for a political solution but to protect and preserve its unity and integrity. Can the Government ensure the unity and integrity of the country by bombing the Tamil areas and wiping out the civilian population?

Mr Premadasa should know that it is still not too late to strive for peace and once peace is restored, resumption of talks is possible. He should also realise that New Delhi can play a major role in arranging a dialogue between his Government and the representatives of the Tamils. His remark that "we could not betray our people because we want friendship with India" is most uncharitable to New Delhi. Whatever his stand, the fact that President Jayewardene had a 30-minute telephonic conversation with the Indian Prime Minister on Friday is an indication of the importance which Colombo attaches to New Delhi. Mr Rajiv Gandhi's consultations with the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran [MGR], also are an indication of the interest which New Delhi is taking in the developments in Sri Lanka. It is convinced of the need to exert pressure on the militants and that is why MGR's services are being sought. The crux of the matter is that unless negotiations are resumed, the ethnic crisis will not be resolved. For that LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and its allies should be restrained from indulging in further violence and Colombo from bombing and killing the civilian population. Only New Delhi can persuade both and make them withdraw from the brink of the precipice.

Spokesman Comments on Tiwari Visit to Kabul, AWACS

BK061128 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Pakistan has expressed concern over the visit of the Indian foreign minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, to Afghanistan at a time when violations of Pakistan airspace have multiplied and bombing of Pakistan's territory by Kabul regime has escalated.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that it will give encouragement to the Kabul regime, whose agents have intensified sabotage activities in Pakistan. He said Pakistan expects that as nonaligned country and a South Asian neighbor, India should instead use its influence in favor of ending the foreign intervention in Afghanistan and bring tranquillity to this strife-torn country and peace and stability in the region.

Referring to Pakistan's efforts to acquire, on lease, surveillance aircraft to ward off violations on the western borders, the spokesman said Pakistan would not be urgently seeking this system if Kabul regime ordered its Soviet-supplied aircraft to operate on the Afghan side of the borders.

Indian Helicopter Strafes Trawler; 1 Killed

BK050548 Hong Kong AFP in English 0501 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Karachi, May 5 (AFP) — A Pakistani fisherman was killed and three others wounded when an Indian helicopter gunship strafed a trawler last week in a renewal of a territorial water dispute between the two nations, Pakistani fisheries sources said here Tuesday.

The sources said a Pakistani trawler, "Zaigham-3," operating in territorial waters claimed by Pakistan, was harrassed by an Indian gunboat. When the trawler resisted arrest and sailed towards Karachi, an Indian Navy helicopter gunship opened fire, killing crew member Abdul Aziz and injuring three others.

The gunboat then seized the trawler and towed it to the Indian fishing port of Okha, in the state of Gujurat. The 17 surviving crew members were arrested by the Indian authorities and charged with violating Indian territorial waters, sources added.

The trawler had left Karachi on April 18, and was on its way back at the time of the attack. Some 30 Pakistani fishing vessels and about 300 crew have been arrested by Indian naval patrols in the last six months for allegedly fishing in Indian territorial waters. Pakistan has gone in for tit-for-tat reprisals.

Earthquake Tremors Rock Islamabad, Other Cities

BK061713 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Light earthquake tremors were felt in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Lahore at about 2045 tonight. Peshawar also experienced tremors of medium intensity tonight. The earthquake tremors measured 5.4 on the international Richter scale in Peshawar. There has been no report of any loss of life or property.

Editorial Notes Obstacles to Press Freedom

BK041317 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
27 Apr 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Five Obstacles to Press Freedom"]

[Text] A veteran journalist, speaking at a reception given in honour of the delegates to PFUJ [Pakistan Federation of Union of Journalists] biennial, has listed five obstacles that still stand in the way of a free Press. These are: the Press and Publication Ordinance (PPO), government control over APP [Associated Press of Pakistan], discrimination in the distribution of newsprint and advertisements and the existence of the National Press Trust (NPT). He has also talked about the basic question of government's attitude towards dissent and lamented the policy of branding non-conformists as anti-state by successive governments.

Undoubtedly since the lifting of martial law the Press has had a measure of freedom; the atmosphere is more relaxed and the media has a wider scope of covering the events and commenting on them. But the basic orientation of the government has remained unchanged. The inclination to control the Press, to induce it to present the officially certified truth alone and arm-twisting of those who want to take an independent line is still in vogue.

It is not enough to proclaim that the Press is free; words must be matched by deeds. The government must demonstrate in practice that it has faith in the ability of the national Press to act with responsibility and maturity and gives up the policy of devising new techniques of checks and restraints. The veteran newsman has not only reflected the sentiment of the working journalists but of all those who wish a free and independent Press to flourish in this country. His observations should be seriously heeded. Hopefully, Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, the Secretary General of the ruling Muslim League who hosted a reception for the PFUJ delegates, will convey the mood of the journalists gathering to the appropriate quarters.

SRI LANKA

President States JVP Plans Campaign of Violence

BK051119 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1040 GMT 5 May 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 5 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene told the government parliamentary group today that the government had information that the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) is planning to stage an insurrection similar to the abortive one in 1971. He told the M.P.'s to consider this as a serious development and mobilise all sections of the people against this as their motive is to destroy democratic institutions and democracy itself.

President Jayewardene said that the J.V.P. plan, according to information is to assassinate leaders of political parties, government and opposition parliamentarians, government officials and others. He also said that they will join hands with northern terrorists. The present build up of the J.V.P. should not be linked to other political parties. They should separate the campaigns of other opposition parties from that of the J.V.P. whose aim is to cause destruction and create chaos.

He said that the May Day demonstration by the Maubima Surekeemev Sanvidanaya was organised by the J.V.P. supporters. They have got several bikkhus [Buddhist monks] too to give support to their activities.

President Jayewardene said that the J.V.P. campaign hangs like a dark cloud over the country and everyone should co-operate with the authorities to counter this campaign.

The president said the J.V.P. plan in 1971 to kidnap Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the then prime minister was foiled because of the information given by a U.N.P. [United National Party] ER. [as received] According to the evidence given by this person Mr Dudley Senanayake and he (the president) were on the list of those to be assassinated. The president read out his statement where he has said that he was the secretary of the U.N.P. youth league of Gonahena in the Kelaniya electorate.

Several M.P.'s spoke giving their views on the problems caused by the J.V.P. in their electorates. They urged that maximum screening be done when recruiting personnel to the security forces as well as the private security services who have been engaged by government institutions to guard the institutions.

22 JVP Members Arrested; Stolen Goods Recovered

BK060939 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0900 GMT 6 May 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 6 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Twenty two (22) under graduates of the medical faculty at the Peradeniya University, in Sri Lanka's hill capital of Kandy were among 26 members of the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) arrested by the police yesterday for allegedly engaging in subversive activities against the state, police told *Lanka Puwath*.

Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene yesterday told the government parliamentary group that the government had information that the JVP was planning to stage an insurrection similar to the abortive one in 1971.

The 22 under graduates of the Peradeniya University's medical faculty were arrested by the police while they were allegedly collecting funds for the JVP, the police said. Another JVP member was arrested by the Marawila police yesterday. Police also recovered motor car engines, a motorcycle, gold and an iron safe.

The suspect had confessed that he was an active member of the JVP and the items recovered by the police were robbed articles.

Another three suspects were arrested by the Athurugiriya police yesterday while they were pasting JVP posters.

Meanwhile, police investigations into the riot on May Day by a mob leaving a meeting at the Abhayarama Temple at Narahenpita, Colombo — 14, have revealed that it was a deliberate attempt by the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna to cause chaos and disrupt the normal life of the people, police told *Lanka Puwath* today.

They alleged it had been established that one of the two dead, when police had to use force to bring the situation under control, was a hardcore member of the JVP from Welgampitiya. He was discovered wearing a shirt and a pair of trousers, under a yellow robe which he had used to masquerade as a Buddhist monk, police said.

The investigations also revealed that the riot which followed attempts to defy a government ban on May Day processions, was well organised and orchestrated by the JVP. Investigations further show that the riot was part of an ongoing JVP plan to disrupt the administration of law and order in the country through subversion, as it did in an abortive insurgency in 19871.

JVP leader Rohana Wijeweera has been in hiding since the July 1983 disturbances.

Counter subversion bureaux have been established by the police in Colombo and the provinces and all police stations have been alerted against the subversive activities of the JVP.

Premadasa Blames India for 'Escalating Terrorism'

BK051452 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
25 April 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Prime Minister Premadasa yesterday said the government would not pursue a political solution to the ethnic problem till peace was restored and called on India to help in the battle against the Tamil separatists.

In a forceful speech that laid the blame for escalating terrorism at India's door, Mr. Premadasa said: "We tell our friends in the world, they must allow us to protect our country.

"At a time when our people are being brutally killed, they should help us destroy those elements that are trying to destroy democracy, if not we will look for solutions from other quarters."

Mr. Premadasa, speaking in parliament during the emergency debate, stressed that while the government was not bent on a military solution, the first objective at hand at present was to protect the nation.

"We tried our best to find a political solution. They rejected that. They want blood and human lives. But we are not going to find a political solution at gun point," he said.

The Prime Minister recalled how he had first told the House of the existence of separatist training camps in Tamil Nadu and his conversation with Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi at Harare requesting him not to harbour the terrorists.

"Now India is expressing sorrow and horror at these killings. If India is genuine and honest in their expressions, should they not arrest these murderers?" he asked.

He said the government was advised by the whole world to come to a negotiated settlement with the terrorists and the President had done his level best to do so. He hoped the recent terrorist attacks would open the eyes of the world, particularly India, to the full implications of the terrorist movement.

"We have had enough patience and we want to make that clear to India and the whole world.... Any friend who now asks us to find a political solution will be considered our enemy," he said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that it was now apparent that the fascist LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] would have nothing to do with negotiations and that was why the government was resorting to military action. He said that the terrorists were now avoiding confrontation with the armed forces and attacking civilians and people should understand that the government could not place a soldier at every point.

Referring to the Kituluttuwa attack, he said it was wrong to say that the government had done nothing to secure that area. For eight months the area was free of terrorists because army camps were set up and people were warned about travelling on that road. The travellers had thought the road was safe.

The separatists were spreading disinformation that they were not involved in the massacres. But the government had taped their conversations and it was clear the terrorists were responsible.

"I wonder if the door to negotiations can ever be opened. When we have made all these moves towards negotiations, is there any reason to ask us to resign? Now, we are attacking the terrorists to let people know our determination to wipe them out," the minister said.

The motion to extend the emergency was passed 110 voting for and CP's Dew Gunasekera (Kalawana) the only member present in the opposition benches voting against.

Press Release Assails Tamil Nadu Aid to Separatists
BK041458 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1355 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Colombo, May 4 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Even if a state of privation did exist in Jaffna, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically states that this was not the case, that would not justify a foreign government, far less a constituent element of a foreign state, seeking to interfere directly in the affairs of Sri Lanka, states a Foreign Ministry press release issued this evening in Colombo. Here is the text of the Foreign Ministry release:

"The official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs of the government of India had briefed the Indian press in New Delhi on the situation in Sri Lanka on the 1st of May.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the government of Sri Lanka is surprised that the spokesman had stated that the people of Jaffna had been denied their basic day-to-day necessities and it was for this reason that the Tamil Nadu Government decided to send them assistance.

"It will be recalled that when the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] carried out certain measures last December which amounted to the setting up of a parallel administration in the Jaffna peninsula, the Sri Lanka Government had no option but to take counter measures. The unacceptability of the LTTE's manifest threat to the integrity of the sovereign state of Sri Lanka was amply recognised at the time even in the Indian media.

"As the security forces directly confronting the separatists would have resulted in civilian casualties, the government decided to impose an embargo on the supply of fuel to the Jaffna peninsula, so that the mobility of the armed separatists would be impeded and their effectiveness reduced. While imposing this embargo, the authorities sought to ensure that adequate supplies of food, medicines and other necessities continued to be available to the people of Jaffna. Sufficient stocks of food and other necessities were available. If any hardship has been suffered by any sections of the people there, this was due to the LTTE compelling the people not to comply with the government's scheme of distribution.

"However, even if a state of privation did exist in Jaffna, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically states that this was not the case, that would not justify a foreign government, far less a constituent element of a foreign state, seeking to interfere directly in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. The decision of the Tamil Nadu Government to send what they profess to describe as humanitarian assistance outside the normal channels of inter-state relations, amounts to a violation of the sovereignity and integrity of Sri Lanka. It should be noted here that the government of India itself has repeatedly and publicly affirmed its commitment to safe-guard Sri Lanka's sovereignity and integrity.

"The decision of the Tamil Nadu Government has an even more sinister dimension, when it is recalled that the Tamil Nadu Government has over a period permitted facilities to the Sri Lankan separatists, including facilities for training. They have even given back to them the arms and ammunition as well as the communication equipment that had earlier been confiscated. The provision of facilities and moral support for Sri Lankan terrorists which had earlier been sought to be extended covertly by the Tamil Nadu Government, though it had even then been recognised and described in some detail in the Indian media itself, has now been overtly re-affirmed by the Tamil Nadu Government's public declaration of support for the LTTE and EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students].

"The official spokesman has also tried to make out that foreign powers and agencies were involved in Sri Lanka and that the Sri Lanka Government had engaged the services of Mosad. Mosad has not operated in Sri Lanka.

"On the contrary, it is intelligence agencies that advise the LTTE and EROS and assist them with arms and ammunition that are the greatest obstacle to the peace process. Their activities should be curbed.

"Here, one must ask the question whether it is the official position of the Indian Government that Sri Lanka should not take all the measures it considers necessary, including utilising assistance from foreign governments, in order to combat terrorism and safe-guard her sovereignity and integrity against any threat to it. Is Sri Lanka alone to be denied this inherent right of a sovereign state, which right has been exercised even by others in the region?.

"Sri Lanka as an independent and sovereign country looks to all friendly countries to assist her in combatting the separatist terrorist threat it now faces, which itself has an external dimension, so as to preserve her integrity, sovereignty, independence, and democratic way of governance.

"The government of Sri Lanka therefore earnestly hopes that the hitherto constructive and helpful efforts of the government of India in arriving at a peaceful resolution of the problem will not now stand vitiated or even jeopardized by either acquiesence in this open challenge posed by the recent pronouncements of the Tamil Nadu Government to the sovereignity and integrity of Sri Lanka."

LTTE Leader Prabhakaran Reportedly 'on the Run'

BK060921 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0854 GMT 6 May 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 6 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Velupillai Prabhakaran the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), is on the run according to intelligence reports from the security forces, according to a report published in today's edition of the 'DAILY OBSERVER'.

Reports say that Prabhakaran keeps on changing his place of residence almost every other day. On Monday Prabhakaran was operating from a house near the Jaffna hospital but yesterday he had vanished.

According to intelligence reports Prabhakaran was not only living in fear of capture by the troops but also from those opposed to him in the LTTE. Intelligence reports say that the feeling has gained ground within the LTTE that Prabhakaran "was acting as a dictator" without consulting his own lieutenants.

Meanwhile, the LTTE campaign of collecting signatures for a petition of appeal to President J R Jayewardene to stay the shifting of the Jaffna hospital is continuing. The TULF Politburo will also meet in Madras today to appeal to President Jayewardene not to shift the hospital.

The government decided to shift the patients of the Jaffna hospital after terrorist mortars fell on the hospital premises recently.

Tehran Commentary Scores Soviet Stand on War

NC060809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0445 GMT 6 May 87

[Commentary from the "Developments on the Front" feature]

[Text] Certainly the imposed war is presently at a senstitive and very significant juncture in its history. In addition to the clear supremacy by the defenders of the revolution over the Ba'thist aggressors, which is seen in their spectacular operations and clearly shows the military crisis faced by the aggressor, the hasty and coordinated reaction by the united front of counterrevolution — be they the imperialists of the East or the West, or regional reaction — is also very clear proof of the Ba'thists' weakness.

Of course, the vicissitudes of the war have clearly made it known to the world that both regional reaction and Western-style imperialism have been involved throughout the war and that they actually engineered this entire military plot. The Soviet Government's stand, however, has other characteristics.

Dear friends, you must remember that after the Iraqi Ba'thists' military machinery was unable to gain its determined objectives because of the Iranian nation's resistance, the Soviet politicians announced they thought this war was to the so-called benefit of the Western powers, and, by declaring their impartiality, they expressed their wish for an immediate solution to the conflict. Even though this stand deceived some people in the world, still a large number of people — knowing that Moscow was organizing and arming the Ba'thist Armed Forces — were well aware of the Kremlin's secret role in the imposition of the war on the Islamic Republic. However, at the same time, the deceitful diplomacy of Moscow, which overtly announced impartiality in the war, is an issue that should be studied further.

We do not have enough time here to assess the gradual change in the Soviet Union's stand and we will have to limit our discussion here to the current juncture of the war, so that we can get a better picture of the Kremlin's present stands.

In his recent meeting with the Arab League delegation, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze described the Kremlin's stand on the war as follows: A political solution is the only solution acceptable to Moscow.

Now, as to what business it is of Moscow's to make known its views on how the war should end, or as to why the Kremlin considers only a political solution as beneficial to its interests are both significant points that should be assessed separately. But why the Kremlin is overtly compelled to adopt such a stand and why Soviet officials have deviated from their so-called policy of impartiality and thus reveal their hand, are questions the answers to which undoubtedly lie in the Baghdad Government's military bankruptcy.

The truth is that the praiseworthy resistance by the Iranian nation, whose deadly blows have brought the aggressor closer to its downfall, has compelled Moscow to abandon its cautiousness and to support overtly the war criminals ruling Baghdad. One side of this coin shows that the Iranian nation has achieved a marked victory, because the retreat by Saddam's mentors from their position of hypocrisy and the relation to the world of their subversive role in the instigation and continuation of the war are undoubtedly nothing less than the outcome of an extensive military operation. The other side of the coin, which shows Moscow's recent behavior vis-a-vis the war, is manifested in the form of political, economic, military, and propaganda supports, or in the handing of the Soviet flag to Saddam's regional mentors.

[Begin Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati recording] The Soviets have announced that the Kuwaiti regime has asked them to do so. This reminds us of incidents 7 years ago when, after their arrival in Afghanistan, the Soviets announced that the Afghan Government had invited them to send their troops to that country. Have you forgotten the great number of deaths you have suffered, the destruction of your materiel, the loss of your respect due to your military presence in Afghanistan, and the fact that you are waiting for an opportunity to leave Afghanistan and have announced this as well? Why do you want to repeat your mistakes? Assuming that the Kuwaiti Government has invited you to do so, do you have to accept? You should first weigh the issue. It is not in your interest. You have a 2,500-km border with the Islamic Republic and you share many interests with us. Our relations with you should be based on a series of principles, on understanding, goodneighborliness, and non-intervention in each other's domestic affairs. Handing over your flag to Kuwait is tantamount to endorsing the export of oil to support Saddam. This is how we assess this, which, most assuredly, is not in your interests.

I do not think the United States considers it advisable to twine itself around us. This is neither in its interests, nor will it yield any results. If it wants to do so, it may be slapped in the face by us, as it has been repeatedly slapped in the past. It is not in its interests to do something like this.

The world too should realize that we are determined, we are not joking. When it comes to our territorial integrity and to the system of our Islamic Republic, we consider nothing but the system of the Islamic Republic and our territorial integrity. [end recording]

All informed observers confirm the fact that the Ba'thist aggressors are facing a difficult and critical situation because of the repeated victories scored by the combatants of Islam. It is actually this very weakness that has forced the world's powers to run around in search for more ways to save this aggressive regime.

At any rate, while stressing that the experience of almost 7 years of war has proved that such support does not have any serious impact on the fate of the war and that they only temporarily postpone the death and downfall of the Baghdad regime, we draw the attention of our nation's revolutionary forces to the fact that the time is now ripe for the war to yield results and that, with the strong blows it has suffered, the enemy is now certainly at its most vulnerable point throughout the entire course of the war. We also point out that the fate of the war can be determined naturally by an intensification of the presence of the popular forces on the fronts.

IRNA Reviews Trade Development With Turkey

LD051821 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Ankara, May 5, IRNA — Volume of Iran-Turkey trade exchanges increased nearly 150 fold over the past six years as compared to the figures of 1970's. Iran supplied Turkey with 15 million tons of crude oil annually during the said period.

An average of 13.3 percent of Turkey's total trade exchanges went to the Islamic Republic of Iran in a four year period from 1982 to 1985, while Iran topped the list of Turkey's Middle East trade partners.

Over the said period, some 14.25 percent of Turkey's total exports were exported to Iran, while 12.35 percent of its total imports were from the Islamic Republic. Turkey's highest volume of imports from Iran was 16.1 percent in 1983. The year 1986 could be considered as the year of stagnation in trade exchanges between oil exporting countries and oil purchasers.

Volume of trade exchanges predicted in the 1986 Iran-Turkey protocol was dlrs. 2.2 billion, down by 736 million dollars as compared to 1985's figure.

Volume of goods transported by Turkish companies decreased to 120,000 tons in 1986 from 950,000 tons in 1985 because of the higher fees demanded by the Turkish companies and their lack of international transit cards.

Turkish transportation companies possess about 235,000 trucks and trailers, 190,000 of which lack transit cards. This issue was discussed between a visiting Iranian delegation and Turkish officials here last week.

The Islamic Republic expected that some dlrs. 500 m. in Tehran-Ankara trade exchanges would be non-oil goods in 1986. However, the expectation did not materialise because of such problems as high Turkish customs fees.

Trend of Irano-Turkish economic relations was normalized as OPEC-set oil prices were stabilized in late 1986 when price ceiling reached dlrs 18 p/b.

Turkey announced its preparedness early this year to purchase six million tons of crude oil from Iran. One third of the said amount, two million tons, was exported to Turkey over the first four months of 1987.

Iran and Turkey signed a protocol during a visit by Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi to Ankara two weeks ago, increasing their volume of trade exchanges to dlrs 2 billion for 1987.

Tehran on Continuing Arrests of Muslims in Tunisia

NC060650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 May 87

[Text] Our correspondent in London has sent us a report on the wave of arrests of Tunisian Muslims by that country's security forces. We invite you to listen to the following:

[Begin recording] Reports from Tunisia indicate that the wave of arrests of Muslims and supporters of an Islamic revolution in that country continues. According to the latest information, Tunisian merchants and tradesmen are among the people who were arrested on charges of collecting financial aid for the combatant Muslims of that country who support an Islamic revolution.

Western news sources point out that the wave of current arrests in Tunisia, which continues the suppression of that country's Islamic movement, started in March in tandem with Tunisia's severance of diplomatic ties with Iran.

After the most recent arrests, which took place on Saturday, Tunisian Government sources stated that security officials would try to determine the political nature of the financial assistance rendered by the Tunisian merchants and tradesmen to that country's Islamic movement. During these arrests, several students, merchants, tradesmen, as well as others who support the Islamic revolution, were imprisoned.

This is the correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London. [end recording]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,827

LD051712 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA — Six foreign cargo ships and tankers were intercepted and searched by the Iranian Navy in Hormuz Strait Monday, but were allowed to continue voyage when no suspicious cargo turned up on board, according to Joint Staff Communique No. 2827 released here today.

The communique said that exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts Monday and Tuesday raging more heavily in Zayd of the southern fronts and Hajj 'Umran of the northwestern fronts.

Several Iraqi warplanes attempted to violate Sardasht air space Monday but were forced to flee when faced with heavy antiaircraft fire of the Muslim forces. Reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters were also checked in Sardasht, Helaleh and Nahr 'Anbar.

Artillery fire of the Muslim combatants on Iraqi positions in Hajj 'Umran operational theater destroyed several enemy gun emplacements, two watch posts and a tank. Four group bunkers, two military vechiles and a munitions dump of the Ba'thist troops were set afire in Sumar Region.

Iraqi engineering movements and relocation activities in Qasr-e Shirin, areas overlooking Mehran and in the region east of Basra were subjected to long-range artillery fire of the Iranian forces.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces maintained fire superiority over the Iraqi troops in Ilam operational theater Monday inflicting casualties and losses on them. Iraqi engineering activities were also halted and the enemy lost 10 gun emplacements, and a munitions

depot when its positions in the southern fronts came under artillery fire of the gendarmerie forces on the same day.

Iraqi Mojahedin, IRGC Operations

LD051835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] The high command of the triple forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced: The Iraqi Muslim mojahedin, backed by the units of the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular operations of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in continuation of their guerrilla operations inside Iraqi territory, launched a series of attacks on agents of the Iraqi regime in Nasiriyah Province of Iraq and inflicted some casualties on them. In the course of these operations, the combatants of Islam killed the head of the Iraqi security organization in the (Hawr al-Nasiriyah) region and one of his aides and also the head of the unit stationed in (Sarsan al-Hawr), in Nasiriyah Province.

The combatants of Islam also attacked a vehicle belonging to the security organization of the city of Al-Fuhud, near Nasiriyah, and killed the head of the city's security organization and two of his colleagues. According to this report, one of the security staff of the town of Al-Kaba'ish, also in Nasiriyah Province, was shot dead during a guerrilla attack by the forces of Islam. During an ambush on one of the roads in Nasiriyah Province, the deputy head of the Nasiriyah Province security organization and a security officer of the Ba'th army were killed and two of their entourage wounded. The report indicates that the combatants of Islam, after completeing their operations, all returned safely to their bases.

European Delegation in Tehran for Peace Talks

TA051724 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kavyani Banner of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] According to political observers, efforts to end the war between the Islamic Republic and Iraq have entered a new phase. On the basis of a report by our co-strugglers, right now a goodwill mission comprising representatives from several European countries is in Tehran. This delegation is to hold talks and negotiate with Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the means of ending the war in accordance with UN Resolution 582.

The European goodwill delegation was invited to Tehran at the initiative of Saddeq Tabataba'i. On the basis of this report, Ahmad Khomeyni and Hashemi-Rafsanjani have agreed to hold talks with the members of this delegation on Resolution 582. According to this resolution, the regimes of Iran and Iraq should agree to a cease-fire and withdraw their forces behind internationally recognized borders. At present Iraq has accepted this resolution but the Islamic Republic, which has occupied part of Iraqi territory, is not ready to accept this resolution.